

Major General George H. Thomas' Grave Site Rededication



Early morning light dawns on the Thomas monument and the Kellogg plot on the morning of July 31, 2021.

Major General George H. Thomas' grave site had become almost as forgotten as his exploits during the Civil War before the Col. George L. Willard Camp 154, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, started a long, expensive and tedious restoration in cooperation with Oakwood Cemetery. Over nine years of work led up to this rededication. It included cleaning of his monument, tree removal, multiple fund raisers, the re-creation of finial urns that had been stolen and the fencing that had been destroyed and endless meetings.

On July 31, the anniversary of Thomas' birth in Virginia, the Kellogg family plot with the General Thomas monument, was rededicated in Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, NY. Well over one hundred visitors attended including, reenactors, Patriot Guard Riders, Boy Scouts, Brothers of the SUVCW and the Sons of Veterans Reserve were present for the event on a beautiful July day. Visitors came from as far away as New Hampshire and Florida. Participants heard presentations on the background of this important Civil War General, period music, and a short chronology of the project. Light refreshments were provided by Stewarts Shops.

This is a short account of this monumental project. There will be, in the near future, a Guidon supplement (The Streamer) that will present the project in much greater detail. There was a beautiful commemorative ribbon created for the event (page 2) and they are still available from our above address for \$11 which includes S+H. Cost for additional ribbons can be found at <https://glwillard154.org/camp-store> (Story continues on page 2).



SUVCW, Sons of Veterans Reserve members from New Hampshire fire a solute at the General Thomas grave site.



The Col. George L. Willard Camp 154 color guard passes in review.



Willard Camp members, Brothers from the Department of New Hampshire, Boy Scouts, Patriot Guard Riders and other participants at the General Thomas/Kellogg Family lot at Oakwood Cemetery.

Rededication Event



A planning session at Oakwood Cemetery prior to the Thomas event.



SUVCW, Department of New York Chaplain, Rev. Mark Isaacs delivers the invocation as the event started.



A new finial urn and a view of some new fencing that was re-created to replace lost and damaged parts.



The beautiful General Thomas commemorative ribbons are still available.



Scout from local Troop 1701 leads the Pledge of the Allegiance.

Civil War Medal of Honor Marker Dedication



Pipers, zouves, reenactors, Camp Brothers and Patriotic Riders all participated in the MOH event on August 21st.

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War we have been tasked with keeping green the memory of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic and all who served the Union Cause. To this end, the Col. George L. Willard 154 participated in the dedication of a marker to recognize Medal of Honor recipient Privet Terrence Begley, 7th NY Heavy Artillery. He was honored for valor at the battle of Cold Harbor. Begley, an Irish immigrant, later died in combat at the battle of Reams Station, VA on August 25, 1864 and is buried in a mass grave in Poplar Grove National Cemetery. On August 2, Brothers of the Willard Camp joined other organizations at Albany Rural Cemetery for the event including: the 123rd and 125th NYVI reenactors, 3rd NY Light Artillery, NYS Emerald Society Pipers, and the Patriot Guard Riders. Mark Bodnar of the Friends of Albany Rural Cemetery acted as Master of Ceremonies. Musical presentations were comprised of "Ashokan Farewell," played by Ms. Dorothy Bellas on violin and Michele Polito and Maria Murdza of the Emerald Society playing "Going Home." The events concluded with Civil War Ladies in Mourning laying a commemorative wreath on the new monument, a pass and review, the playing of Taps and a final artillery salute. Private Terrence Begley rest in peace.



Private Terrence Begley's new MOH monument.



Willard Camp Color Guard listens to a presentation.



Camp Brothers fold the flag for presentation.

SUVCW Supporting Scouts

The follow scouts have received the SUVCW's Eagle Scout Certificate from The Col. George L. Willard CAMP # 154

Name:	Troop:	Date:
Isaac Sievers	6127	05/04/2021
Daneil Cheney	6002	05/04/2021
Patrick McGloine	4013	06/02/2021
Jackson Zlnor	4024	06/02/2021
Christopher Birchmore		03/03/2020
Adam Film	2528	08/12/2021
Dylan Bubie	2528	04/21/2021
Jackson Ellnor	4024	06/02/2021
Kyle Strong	6002	06/02/2021
John Herring III	6046	07/07/2021
Ryan Jones	6027	07/07/2021
Jacob Goman	4036	07/07/2021
Logan Dishon	4021	08/03/2021
Carm Ang	4024	09/01/2021
Raymond Ellis	4016	09/01/2021

Congratulations



The Sons of
Union Veterans
of the Civil War

"Keeping Green The Memory"

Camp Officers

Col. George L. Willard Camp # 154

Camp Commander	Richard Straight
Senior Vice Commander	Vince Jockimo
Junior Vice Commander	John Swartwout
Secretary	Leo McGuire
Treasurer	Robert Keough
Camp Council	David Dziewulski
Camp Council	Brian Castler
Camp Council	Paul Cooney
Chaplain	Tom Maggs
Patriotic Instructor	Paul Cooney
Guide	Chris White
Guard	Peter Swano
Color Bearer	Francis Rogler
Graves Registration	
Monument Officer	David Dziewulski
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Brian Castler
Guidon Editor	Robert Keough

New Eagle Certificate



Coming Events

Sept	4	Camp Meeting
Oct	2	Camp Meeting
	11	President Garfield
Nov	6	Camp Meeting (nominations)
Dec	4	Camp Meeting (election)

The Guidon is the official newsletter of the Col. George L. Willard Camp #154, SUVCW. It is published four times a year. The editor may be reached at: rpkeough@aol.com.

Brothers Visit These Sites:

Col. George L. Willard Camp #154
<http://www.gwillard154.org/>
SUVCW Department of NY
<http://suvchw.org/ny/deptny.htm>
SUVCW National Headquarters
<http://www.suvchw.org/>